

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A graphical database comprising:
an object storage portion to store a predetermined
5 object representation;
a mapping portion to extract the object
representation from the object storage portion and to
graphically sub-divide the object representation into a
plurality of regions, each region representing a data-
10 input field;
a selection portion adapted to allow selection of
at least one region of a sub-divided object image; and
an attribute assignment portion to assign
conditions to selected regions, wherein the conditions
15 include region-specific information,
wherein each region is adapted to receive a
plurality of conditions.

2. A graphical database in accordance with Claim
20 1, wherein each condition attributable to a selected
region is graphically represented in a distinguishable
manner.

3. A graphical database in accordance with Claim
25 1, wherein the attribute assignment portion further
effects of a graphical modification of any region
subject to an assigned condition.

4. A graphical database in accordance with Claim
30 3, wherein depending on a condition assigned to a
selected region, the attribute assignment portion
changes a color of the selected region.

5. A graphical database in accordance with Claim
35 3, wherein depending on a condition assigned to a

selected region, the attribute assignment portion applies a graphical pattern to the selected region.

5 6. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 3, wherein depending on a condition assigned to a selected region, the attribute assignment portion alters a dimensional perspective of the selected region relative to the object representation.

10 7. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 1, wherein each region includes a unique designation.

15 8. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 1, wherein each region is static in position and is independent of any overlapping regional boundaries of any adjacent regions.

20 9. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising a conversion portion to convert graphical representations of regions and any assigned conditions into a non-graphical information form for storage.

25 10. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 9, wherein each region includes a unique designation, and the non-graphical information of each converted graphical representation of regions and any assigned conditions are formed into data records that are indexed in accordance with the unique designations.

30 11. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 10, further comprising a comparison mechanism to compare one object representation to another like object representation,

wherein the comparison mechanism is adapted to analyze data records for each object representation based on regional unique designations.

5 12. A graphical database comprising:

an object storage portion to store a predetermined object representation;

10 a mapping portion to extract the object representation from the object storage portion and to graphically sub-divide the object representation into a plurality of regions, each region representing a data-input field;

a selection portion adapted to allow selection of at least one region of a sub-divided object image; and

15 an attribute assignment portion to assign conditions to selected regions, wherein the conditions include region-specific information,

20 wherein the attribute assignment portion further effects of a graphical modification of any region subject to an assigned condition,

wherein depending on a condition assigned to a selected region, the attribute assignment portion can effect at least one of a change in region color and an introduction of a pattern to the selected region, and

25 at least one region can concurrently maintain a change of color and a pattern.

30 13. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 12, wherein depending on a condition assigned to a selected region, the attribute assignment portion is adapted to alter a dimensional perspective of the selected region relative to the object representation.

14. A graphical database comprising:

an object generation portion to display a predetermined object representation;

5 a mapping portion to graphically divide the object representation into a plurality of regions, in accordance with a prescribed standard, each region being statically positioned, non-overlapping, and assigned a unique designation;

a selection portion adapted to allow selection of at least one region of a sub-divided object image; and

10 an attribute assignment portion to assign conditions to selected regions, wherein the conditions include at least one of region-specific information and object-specific information,

15 wherein each region represents a data-input field, wherein each region having an assigned condition is visually altered, and

wherein each region is adapted to visually convey multiple assigned conditions.

20 15. A graphical database in accordance with Claim 14, further comprising a conversion portion to convert regions and any assigned conditions into a non-graphical information form for storage.

25 16. A method for assigning positional-specific attributes to an object and managing such attributes in a graphical database, including the steps of:

providing a graphical object representation;

30 dividing the object representation into a plurality of sub-regions, each region being a graphical, data-input field;

selecting at least one region for attribute assignment;

selecting an attribute; and

graphically modifying all selected regions in a manner to convey that the selected attribute is associated with the selected regions,

wherein at least one region is adapted to visually convey an association with multiple attributes.

17. A method for assigning positional-specific attributes to an object and managing such attributes in a graphical database, including the steps of:

providing a graphical object representation;
dividing the object representation into a plurality of sub-regions, each region being a data-input field and having a region-specific identification;

selecting at least one region for attribute assignment;

selecting an attribute;
graphically modifying all selected regions in a manner to convey that the selected attribute is associated with the selected regions; and

converting all assigned attributes to non-graphics data and storing all assigned attributes in a data file in accordance with corresponding region-specific identifications.

18. A method in accordance with Claim 17, further comprising the step of reproducing regional image data from a data file, including:

providing a graphical object representation;
dividing the object representation into a plurality of sub-regions;

extracting assigned attributes in accordance with the region-specific identification; and

graphically modifying all regions subject to an assigned attribute.

19. A memory device including stored instructions, executable by a computer, the instructions effecting a method for assigning
5 positional-specific attributes to an object and managing such attributes in a graphical database, including the steps of:

providing a graphical object representation;

10 dividing the object representation into a plurality of sub-regions, each region being a data-input field and having a region-specific identification;

selecting at least one region for attribute assignment;

15 selecting an attribute;

graphically modifying all selected regions in a manner to convey that the selected attribute is associated with the selected regions; and

20 converting all assigned attributes to non-graphics data and storing all assigned attributes in a data file in accordance with corresponding region-specific identifications.